



Welcome to St. Catherine's Church!

Facing you is the Font, carved with,
amongst others, symbols
of the Gospel writers:

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

When first shaped it was painted in vibrant
colours. The whole building would have been
glowing with the colour of paintings showing
biblical scenes.

Every Church with its soaring arches, stained glass
and wall art was to be a glimpse of heaven.



For over 600 years babies have been brought
here to be welcomed as new members
of the Church family.

Symbolically, water cleanses and the sign of the
cross turns us to **Christ** – but long before our birth
God's love for us has overcome all barriers .

God of forgiveness, pour your grace down on me.

Walking up the Aisle you
will pass the Priests desk,
the Lectern and the Pulpit.
The places where, Sunday
by Sunday, the Bible is
read and explored.

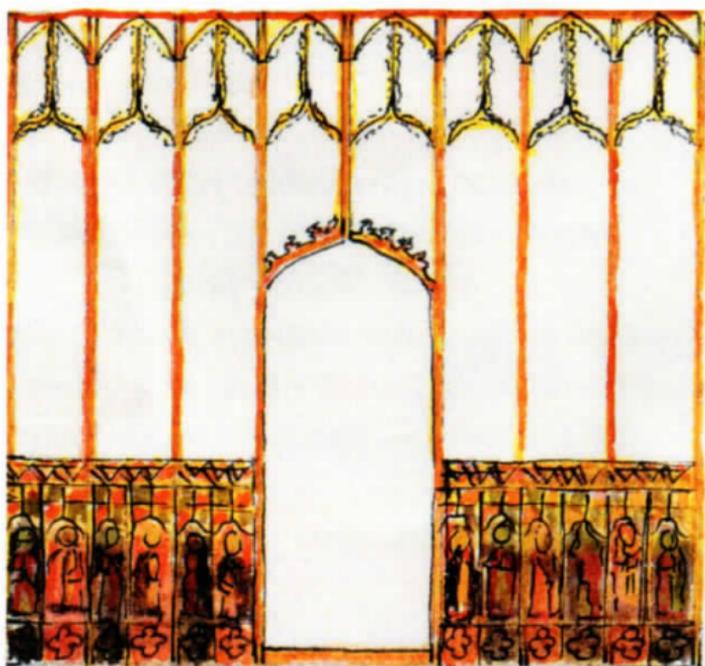


Once, every Bible was chained to its stand and written in Latin. Courageous Christians translated and printed it in everyday language so that it could be heard and understood by everyone.



For prophesy and prose; for poetry and praise -
for brilliant stories, for answers, questions
and inspiration - thank you.

Next you will pass under the Screen.
Delicate tracery arching above Saints and Kings,
richly coloured with scarlet and gold -
each reflecting a remarkable life.



Thank you for those who down the years have served
You and Your people in spite of fear or persecution.
Help me to be courageous.

Now walk through the Chancel to the steps
of the Sanctuary and the altar, **God's** table,
where all are welcome .

Together we offer back to Him all he has given us
as, through bread and wine,
we remember **Christ's** sacrifice and love.
Through him we are forgiven people.

"We are not worthy so much as to gather up the
crumbs under your table but You are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy."



God of rainbow arches and moonlit waters,
have mercy on us.

God of the spots on ladybirds' wings,
have mercy on us.

God in crumbled bread and blood-red wine,
have mercy on us.

As you walk back down the Aisle you are following
in the footsteps of many couples setting out
on married life, full of love and hope.



Take a moment to sit.
Be at peace - then, perhaps, light a candle.

Here I am God, enfold me!



By the South door, the old medieval Chest
Whose scarred hands shaped this wood? Can you hear
the hammer driving home the piercing nails?
Is that how it sounded to that other woodworker?



Jesus Christ, carpenter, joiner, builder, creator
- shape me

Then back through the door which welcomed you in
and leads you out.



Thank you for new opportunities.
May I have the courage to change direction.

By the Main Gate stands the Village War Memorial. Names are listed. Young men, who loved this place and wanted to enjoy its beauty and freedom forever, but who gave their lives so that we can live in peace.



God bless all who lay their lives down for others.
May we build a world that makes their sacrifice worthwhile.

The Churchyard,
a quiet centre of the Community.
A place where time holds its breath,
loved ones are entrusted,
and God's Creation flourishes.



Thank you for nettles and dandelions;
for campions and primroses

May in the Churchyard

The blackbird's warning call
swells his throat and lifts his beak
to where, circling with
increasing joy,
in a delirium of summer sun,
the swifts plunge and soar
in daring feats of flight.



The rumble of traffic
places the Churchyard
where it belongs,
in the midst of life,
at the centre of its community

On the edge, the cow parsley
gracefully dances,
lucily elegant
and buttercups are bold,
unashamedly reflecting
God's glory
while the sapphire speedwell
puts heaven's blue to shame.



Here rest loved ones, family lines and
those long forgotten.
Bright bouquets belie tearful remembrance
and attract the curious visitor.
Holidaymakers and occasional sailors,
safely moored in greening dykes

This is safe harbour,
this is sanctuary,
for here in the midst of life,
is hope and promise
welcoming us
on the next journey.
Here is **God's** peace
which passes all under-
standing,



Father, Son and **Holy Spirit** - for you.
Today, tomorrow and forever.

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